

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREECE FACES ITS PLEBISCITE

ON THE EVE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PLEBISCITE, THE GREEK NATIONAL MOOD IS CHARACTERIZED BY FRUSTRATION AND RISING DISSATISFACTION. EMBASSY ATHENS NOTES THAT AN INTENSIVE GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN FOR A "YES" VOTE HAS FAILED TO CONVINCE THE VOTERS THAT THE JULY 29 REFERENDUM HOLDS PROMISE FOR A REAL CHANGE. WHATEVER THE PLEBISCITE RESULTS, GREECE WILL REMAIN CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 5210, 7/27.

2. SADAT'S REACTION TO ME DEBATE IS MODERATE

IN A JULY 26 SPEECH, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT ATTACKED THE US FOR OUR VETO OF THE UNSC MIDDLE EAST

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RESOLUTION AND FIRMLY REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL

WHILE IT HOLDS EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. HOWEVER, OUR MISSION IN CAIRO COMMENTS THAT THE CALM TONE OF THE SPEECH MAY REFLECT SADAT'S SATISFACTION AT THE SUCCESS OF EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO ISOLATE THE US AND ISRAEL AT THE UN. (SECRET) CAIRO 2245, 7/27.

3. IS ULBRICHT DEAD?

RECENT NEWS REPORTS AND RUMORS IN EAST AND WEST BERLIN LEAD OUR MISSION IN BERLIN TO SPECULATE THAT FORMER EAST GERMAN PARTY CHIEF AND HEAD OF STATE WALTER ULBRICHT EITHER DIED ON JULY 22 OR HAS BEEN MORIBUND SINCE THAT TIME. ULBRICHT'S DEATH COULD PRECIPITATE CHANGES IN THE GDR HIERARCHY, WITH PREMIER WILLI STOPH MOVING INTO ULBRICHT'S CEREMONIAL POSITION AND HORST SINDERMANN TAKING OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BERLIN 1289, 7/27.

4. GISCARD ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM

IN A LONDON TIMES INTERVIEW, FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. HE CALLED FOR A RETURN TO "FIXED, BUT ADJUSTABLE PARITIES", SUBMISSION OF THE CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDITIES TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL UNDER A REINFORCED IMF, THE DESIGNATION OF A "NUMERAIRE" -- A UNIT OF REFERENCE AND INSTRUMENT OF PAYMENTS AND RESERVE -- WHICH INSPIRES CONFIDENCE. HE ALSO INSISTED THERE WILL EXIST A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SDR'S AND GOLD. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 8648, 7/27.

5. BRITISH VIEW EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE BRITISH REGARD THE FRENCH DECISION, AT THE RECENT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THE US AS A "VERY BIG BREAK-THROUGH." THE UK WANTS THE EC MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON NEXT FALL TO YIELD A JOINT STATEMENT OF BROAD
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POLITICAL PRINCIPLES, AND, IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING, THEY ARE PRESSING THE EC TO FORMULATE AGREED POSITIONS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 8701, 7/27.

6. JAPANESE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TO IMPROVE

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT JAPANESE BANKERS ANTICIPATE

A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN JAPANESE EXPORTS AND IN THE
BALANCE OF TRADE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1973. RE-
SULTING MARKET FORCES WILL CAUSE APPRECIATION OF THE
YEN. (UNCLASSIFIED) TOKYO 9660, 7/27. ROGERS

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